

Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)  
Immunization Program

**Pentacel<sup>®</sup> Vaccine Supply Update - July 23, 2012**  
**Delays to Continue Through**  
**the First Quarter of 2013**

As stated in the [MDPH alert dated April 24, 2012](#), the availability of Sanofi Pasteur's Pentacel<sup>®</sup> (DTaP-IPV-Hib) vaccine is currently reduced. It is now anticipated that the supply delay will continue through the first quarter of 2013. This ongoing delay is not related to safety or quality issues with Pentacel<sup>®</sup> but a result of FDA required process improvements to Pentacel<sup>®</sup>'s manufacturing plant. As a result, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continue to provide Massachusetts with a limited allocation of Pentacel<sup>®</sup> vaccine on a monthly basis.

### Immunization Scheduling

MDPH recommends that providers who currently use Pentacel<sup>®</sup> to continue with temporarily administering it for **only** the first two doses and follow the schedule outlined below:

- Use Pentacel<sup>®</sup> for the first two doses in the series;
- Use the individual antigens DAPTACEL<sup>®</sup>, ActHIB<sup>®</sup>, and IPOL<sup>®</sup> for the third dose in the series;
- Use DAPTACEL<sup>®</sup> and ActHIB<sup>®</sup> for the fourth dose in the series;
- Continue to use DAPTACEL<sup>®</sup> and IPOL<sup>®</sup> for the fifth dose in the series as usual.

Please refer to the [MDPH Pentacel alert dated April 30, 2012](#) for additional guidance to help with scheduling of doses.

At this time there are **no** supply issues with single antigen vaccines, therefore to prevent missed opportunities, children should get **ALL** the vaccines they are due for within the recommended age ranges.

Due to the extended time frame of this shortage, some providers may choose to use Pediarix<sup>®</sup>. If you choose to begin routine use of Pediarix<sup>®</sup> in your office:

- You should plan on using this formulation at least through the first quarter of 2013.
- You must have a plan to use all remaining supplies of Pentacel<sup>®</sup> to avoid wastage.
- Ensure all children still receive their 1<sup>st</sup> dose of hepatitis B vaccine at birth.

Please note that MDPH does not recommend both Pediarix<sup>®</sup> and Pentacel<sup>®</sup> be stocked in the same office because it can lead to medical errors.

### Vaccine Management

Providers must monitor their inventory closely during this shortage to maximize the number of available doses for all practices and clinics. Please use all doses ordered so that vaccine does not go unused or allowed to expire which will result in vaccine restitution.

Thank you for your understanding and flexibility in adhering to the current recommendations during this challenging period and for your efforts to protect our children against vaccine preventable diseases. MDPH will continue to monitor our monthly allocations of Pentacel<sup>®</sup> on a regular basis and will increase providers' dose allocations as soon as supplies will allow.

### Questions:

If you have questions about **immunization schedules**, please call the Immunization Program at 617-983-6800 and ask to speak to an immunization epidemiologist.

For all questions about **vaccine availability and ordering**, please contact the Vaccine Management Unit at 617-983-6828.